

FACTSHEET VOTING IN HAWAII

ELECTIONS IN HAWAII

In every even numbered year, Hawaii holds a PRIMARY ELECTION on the third Saturday in September and a GENERAL ELECTION on the first Tuesday in November. These elections are held to elect individuals who will serve as our representatives in federal, state, and county government.

Hawaii also holds other elections within the primary and general elections. Voters elect Board of Education members in the nonpartisan primary and general elections. Also, a special election is held within the general election to select the Board of Trustees for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA).

WHERE TO VOTE

Registered voters in the State of Hawaii will receive a Voter Registration Notice prior to the election. The Notice lists which election(s) the voter is eligible to vote in, their district/precinct number, and the location of their polling place.

If there are any questions regarding your registration or polling place, call the City/County Clerk of the area to which you claim residency as follows:

County of Hawaii	961-8277
County of Kauai	241-6350
County of Maui	270-7749
City & County of Honolulu	523-4293

POLLING PLACE HOURS

All polling places will open at 7 a.m. and close at 6 p.m. The polling place will remain open to allow voters who were in line at the time of closing to cast their vote.

BRING PROPER IDENTIFICATION

When going to the polling place, be sure to have your picture ID with a signature on it for verification of your identity. You will be asked to sign a poll book to record that you voted at that polling place. Your Voter Registration Notice is **NOT** an acceptable form of identification.

AT THE POLLING PLACE

1. **Information and Ballot Demonstration Station:** Go to the Information and Ballot Demonstration Station located outside the polling place. A Precinct Official will:
 - a. Assist voters in checking that their name is on the List of Registered Voters;
 - b. Verify that the voter is at the correct polling place;
 - c. Verify that the voter is properly registered; and
 - d. Instruct the voter on the proper voting procedures.
2. **Poll Book Station:** Proceed to the Poll Book Station. Names are arranged in the poll book alphabetically by last name. Go to the alpha line that corresponds to the first letter of your last name. You will be asked to:
 - a. Verify your identity with a picture ID (such as your driver's license);
 - b. Verify the information in the poll book; and
 - c. Sign the poll book.
3. **Ballot Issuing Station:** Go to the Ballot Issuing Station where an official will issue you ballots and a ballot secrecy sleeve. The amount of ballots you receive and the procedures for voting varies according to the type of election (special, primary, or general).
4. **Ballot Box Station:** Cast your ballot by depositing it into the precinct counter machine.

THE SINGLE PARTY PRIMARY

Primary elections are held in even numbered years before each general election. The next primary election in Hawaii will be held on Saturday, September 18, 2004.

The primary election is held to nominate candidates who will represent each political party in the general election. Similarly, candidates who do not belong to a specific party must also be nominated in order to appear on the general election ballot as a nonpartisan candidate. In Hawaii, a special type of primary called the "SINGLE PARTY PRIMARY" is conducted according to the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Hawaii Revised Statutes Section §12-31 provides:

"No person eligible to vote in any primary or special primary election shall be required to state a party preference or nonpartisanship as a condition of voting. Each voter shall be issued the primary or special primary ballot for each party and the nonpartisan primary or special primary ballot. A voter shall be entitled to vote only for candidates of one party or only for nonpartisan candidates. If the primary or special primary ballot is marked contrary to this paragraph, the ballot shall not be counted."

Accordingly, candidates who belong to a specific party are listed alphabetically by contest on a specific party ballot. Candidates who do not belong to any party are listed alphabetically by contest on a nonpartisan ballot. Each voter is limited to voting for candidates on one and only one color-coded party or nonpartisan ballot.

MULTI-PARTY/CROSS-PARTY VOTE

Votes cast by voters on more than one color-coded ballot (section) are not counted.

NEW VOTING SYSTEM

In 1998, the state migrated to a new voting system which allows more than one party ballot and the nonpartisan ballot to be printed on a single ballot card. The old punchcard system required a single ballot card for each party and a separate ballot card for nonpartisan candidates. The new system uses the optical mark reader (OMR) technology for voting and vote counting. The system will continue to be used during the upcoming elections.

THE OMR SYSTEM

In order to fulfill state constitutional requirements (to assure the secrecy of party preference and voting); and to comply with statutory requirements noted above, each voter is provided:

1. A single ballot card;

Each ballot card has printed on it the following color-coded ballots:

- A. Partisan Ballots

Qualified political parties for the 2004 elections will be listed at a later date.

- B. Nonpartisan Ballot

Listed on this ballot are candidates who do not belong to any party.

2. Each ballot card also contains a Special Nonpartisan section.

Listed on this ballot are candidates for the Board of Education and other nonpartisan county elections.

3. A voter is instructed to use a special pen provided in the voting booth to darken an oval next to the candidate's name.
4. Voted ballots are deposited into a precinct counter where the votes are processed, counted and posted to a data card.
5. At the end of the election day the data cards are brought into a central location so that a total count may be compiled, tabulated, and posted.

THE GENERAL ELECTION

Candidates nominated in the primary election are listed on the general election ballot. This year's general election will be held on Tuesday, November 2, 2004.

Federal and state offices are posted on one ballot by contest. Candidates are listed alphabetically and partisan/nonpartisan affiliation is noted for each. Candidates for county offices appear on a separate ballot (section), as do Board of Education and the candidates to fill the position of trustee for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Candidates on these ballots are listed by contest in alphabetical order.

In candidate contests, voters may vote for the candidate of their choice regardless of partisan or nonpartisan affiliation. The voter should carefully determine the number of candidates he/she is entitled to vote for in each contest. Voting for more candidates than allowed in a contest will invalidate the vote.

The constitutional amendment and charter amendment questions are printed on separate ballots (sections). The requirements for passage are specified by law.

SPOILED BALLOT PROCESS

The voting system in the State of Hawaii allows a voter to correct their ballot if a mistake was made. The voting machine will alert the voter of a possible error and the voter is then allowed to exchange that incorrect ballot for a new one by seeing the precinct official. The incorrect ballot is considered spoiled and void. This is the spoiled ballot process. There is no limitation on the number of ballots a voter may spoil.

This Factsheet is intended for informational purposes only and should not be used as an authority on the Hawaii election law and deadlines. Requirements and/or deadlines may change pending changes in legislation. Consult the Hawaii Revised Statutes and other sources for more detailed and accurate requirements.

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